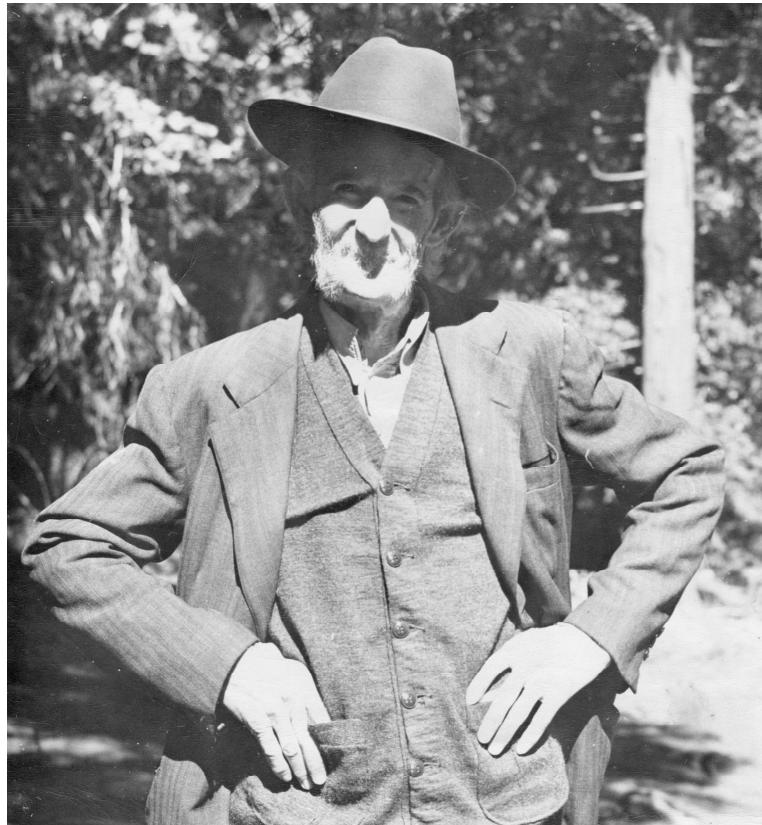


1904 Diary

Robert Haley Asher



Robert Haley Asher, September 9, 1945

Robert Haley Asher was born 28 March 1868, to Josephus Marion Asher, who was the first commercial nurseryman in the San Diego area, providing buyers with fruit trees, shrubs, & vines from his Fruit Vale ranch in Paradise Valley, National City. Robert Asher settled on Palomar Mountain in 1903, and ultimately had 160 acres, living in the Pauma Creek / State Park area. Robert Asher also lived off Palomar Mountain part of the year working as a nurseryman among other things. On Palomar, Asher photographed summer campers, then developed and sold them photos; he also sold postcards off his photos, trapped animals for pelts, collected and sold wild plants, picked apples, and worked odd jobs. Asher moved off Palomar Mountain in 1946 to his sister Mrs. Josephine A. Vacher's place on Fuerte Drive in El Cajon and continued to visit Palomar Mountain until 1951. Asher passed away on 25 April 1953.

These digitized pages are from the Robert Haley Asher papers (held by Peter Brueggeman). When Josephine Vacher's son vacated the family house in El Cajon, the family gave Robert Asher materials at that location to Peter, due to his Palomar Mountain history interests. Digitization of these materials and posting them to the Internet Archive is intended to enhance and preserve access to these materials.

Diary entries from March 14 to May 17, 1904. Includes January 1904 transcribed correspondence.

①

1904 (Diary)

Mar. 14. Bought grub \$1.00. Went down to claim. Worked some on "Dugout" and some on trail. Slept in Dugout."

Mar. 15 "Planted Romanesco above dugout. Working in dugout and chimney."

Mar. 16 Worked on dugout.

Mar. 17. Pruning berry vines for Bailey.
Poison Oak on wrist. To have fruit to eat
for pruning patch, & Didnt get many

Mar. 18 + 19 Pruning for Bailey

"Miss Frazer having gone on Mr. Fink's
bond for carrying mail to Jessie, is obliged
to carry the mail herself until someone
is appointed in ~~Mr.~~ Fink's stead."

Mar. 21st at Bailey's. "Snow last night."
Wrote to A.W. Maxwell offering La Mesa
place for \$3000.00

Mar. 24. at Bailey's. "Dug about 40 Gregg
plants for myself." "Pruned a few black-
berries."

Mar. 25 + 26 Pruning for Bailey. "26th" "Dug a few
small rhubarb plants to take down to the claim,
also blue, currants and strawberries, & peaches
M. F. about renting her camera."

1904. (Diary)

Apr. 17. Sunday. At Dugout.

Apr. 18. Went up to Baileys for mail and grub. Worked around Dugout P.M.

Apr. 19. Raining. Working inside Dugout putting up shelves and digging

Apr. 20. Still storming. Some hail and snow. Snow melts as fast as it falls. Worked some on trail up canyon P.M.

Apr. 21. Went up to Baileys. Helped with "bullet" bark from 11 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Apr. 22. Back to Dugout 8 A.M. Went up to new house. Making shake. Clarence Reed & friend ran across me at work on the shakes.

Apr. 23. Worked on new house and trail. Took photos of lilac & magnolia in bloom

Apr. 24. Sunday at Dugout.

Apr. 25. Worked on new house.

Apr. 26. Started for mail. Stopped by rain at Doane's until 2 P.M. Returned up to Clarence Reed he had lost near Dugout. Snow in evening. Set Baileys over night.

Apr. 27. Returned to claim via Doane's. All hands rounding up cattle. Worked on log P.M.

Apr. 28. Worked all day trying to cut down big fir. Clarence Reed and Ollie Field brought mail P.M. and finished the job. I took photo of them at work.

(2^a) over

Mar. 28. "Go down to the ranch. Began raining about 2 P.M. Worked about the dugout.

Mar 29th Worked inside dugout. Raining.

Mar 30. Worked inside. Windy & fog.

Mar. 31. Went up to Bailey. Returned to Dugout P.M. Snow on ~~breakfast~~ at Baileys. None at Dugout.

Apr. 1, 2, 3 & 4 at Dugout working.

Apr. 5th Went up to Bailey. Got camera at Miss Frayer's. Staid overnight at Baileys.

Apr. 6th Back to Dugout A.M. P.M. Mr. Doane & young Reed passed by.

Apr. 7th at Dugout. Went up to Doane's to have ^{had} ~~had~~ breakfast. Doane showed me some corners. I expect to file on two or three of the creek forties. "Back to dugout"

April. 8th Went up the canyon to locate site for new house. Worked on new trail to site 1st act of settlement on homestead.

Apr. 9. "Worked a little on ^{the} trail to new home, cut down a tree there and staked out corners for house (about 16 x 32 ft)." Lent \$500 P.O. order to A.C. Dodson on acct. filing homestead papers."

Apr. 10. Sunday. Stayed around dugout. Have
cold and feel miserable.

Apr. 11. Sick. No work.

Apr. 12. Got stuff left at Lone Fir for me.
" " P.M. Went up to North Bend (Note Homestead)
and trimmed trees. Worked back on trail.
Poison oak coming out again on me again.
" and I feel like a porcupine.

Apr. 13. Made two trips to Lone Fir for
stuff (note; from La Mead). Pain in side
did no other work.

Apr. 14. Went up for mail. Heard from
A. C. Dodson. He says to establish resi-
dence on homestead land but to keep
improvements also on the unsurveyed
school land. It is not necessary to
have houses on both. But I will."

Apr. 15. Worked most of the day up the
canyon, cut down a cedar and a
fir for house stuff.

Apr. 16. "Worked on new house" "Got both
axes stuck in a 4 ft fir log, but finally
got them out. The fir wood is awfully
heavy stuff."

After supper splitting short piece for
dugout shelter at Dugout.

1904 (Diary) 2 a
Apr. 8th ¹⁹⁰ Entry:-

"Have decided to homestead the three forties north of the Sawday Timber and stone claim land and west of Doane's forty at head of canyon - all in Sec 31, T. 95., 1st. S. 18. W. and also one forty in Sec. 36. T. 98. 1st W., S. 18. W., said being N. E. ^{CALIF.} $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Sec. 36, and on which my dugout stands.

CHUPA ROSA PARK CAMP

AND EXPERIMENTAL GARDENS

ROBERT H. ASHER, PROPRIETOR

NELLIE, SAN DIEGO CO. CALIF

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Apr. 29. "Foolin' around" (at work - I suppose) ^(note)

Apr. 30. Worked on log A.M. Sharpened both axes & from at Doane's A.M. Got some stuff at Lone Fir

May 1. Rain, dugout.

May 2. Worked on log. Day awfully dull.

May 3. Worked on new house, after supper went down to Rainbow Falls and took a view after sunset, 5 sec. f. 32. ^(note) [This best view of Falls].

May 4. Worked on new house, after supper worked on Falls trail.

May 5. No entry.

May 6. Moved blankets etc up to new shack before breakfast. Worked on shingles and on roof.

May 7. Slept in new house last night, cut down cedar east of house. At 9 A.M. went up to Soasse Valley and got Mr. James Berry - man of Imperial to come down to witness my filing on 150 acres water near east line of my claim, afterward took camera up to Valley and took his photos of Berryman & Cooper's outfit. (A.J. Cooper) Took dinner with Doane. Worked on house P.M.

May 7. (continued) Clarence Reed "settled" in
the "White place" (note: Morgan Hill) yesterday.
He and his younger brother now living there.

May 8. Sunday. ~~Sunday~~ at home.

May 9. Worked at Baileys all day on 'barb.

May 10. Worked a.m. on 'barb, but telegram
from Alf. You dead. Can't get home
in time for funeral. No horses to be had
near. Only have 52 cents on hand.

May 11. Walked down to Encinitas. Put
X up my watch as security for hotel
X bill at Avenue House. (Mr. Reed)

May 12. Took stage to S.D. (Had return ticket)
Got \$3.00 from Mr. A. E. Dodson which
was part of what I had sent him on ac't
Took evening train for Cajon. Poor Jay's
disconsolate.

May 13. May 15 { At home El Cajon
" 14. " 16 }

May 16. Walked to S.D. Wanted to see Dodson,
but he had gone to Imperial.

May 17. Took 6 o'clock car to Mission Cliff. Walked nearly
to halfway house when stage caught up. Ed. Han-
ville took me 50 cents' worth - nearly to the
(over)

1904.

(1) Toward the end of 1903 there was considerable agitation in favor of the establishment of a government Parcel Post system. I was a subscriber to the Pacific Print World at the time and was very much in favor of the proposed innovation. Mr Edward Bernays' articles especially attracted my attention and I finally determined to dip my oar in the waters with a Parcel Post Poem.

[Some of the scraps have survived to this day - July 18, 1946]

I must have had some trouble getting started. One of the earlier efforts started out as follows:

No for the Senator's fight
'Lest to the hullabaloo
Trades to the left and the right
There in the Washington Zoo.
What can the farmer boy do -
Poor little innocent lamb -
With pitiful cry to the crew -
"Parcel Post, please, Uncle Sam!"

Money for aeroplane flight
Dollars for battleships new
Millions and millions in sight
Everything under the blue
Ark, and you'll get, is the cue
Sick stockings free, or a dam -
One request only's askew
"Parcel Post please, Uncle Sam."

"No, Mister Farmer - not you!"
Old Pegasus must have thrown me about here -
for the final draft of my poem - the one that was

(2) published in the Pacific Fruit World,
was set to a different tune. Here it is as
printed the first time.

A Parcels Post Poem.

By Robt. H. Asher, La Mesa, Cal.

Right Under Your Stupid Old Nose

Fifty mails for six cents to Carl in Cologne,
Eleven pounds of prunes from Eberfeld Town;

When I send a package to Jay in Cajon,

It costs me six cents for six ounces alone.

Oh, Uncle, dear Uncle, please put that map down,

And look at this thing right under your nose

That's a fact! 'Tis a fact!

Right under your stupid old nose!

I can say of a truth—with freedom from spite—

That our darling old Uncle (Sam is his name)

Has a most re-mark-a-ble sight!

He can see like an owl in the darkest night
To Manila! To Havana? Colon? 'Tis the same!

But he can't see a thing right under his nose.

That's a fact! 'Tis a fact!

Right under his stupid old nose

If a country gets off from the straightaway path

Our Uncle—he sees it as certain as fate,

And with fire in his eyes and heart full of wrath,

He goes for that country with a stout Yankee lath.

(3)

And makes it walk neatly the path called "straight."
But he can't see a thing right under his nose.

That's a fact! 'Tis a fact!
Right under his funny old nose!

And sure when he gets gooley - go cars
(That Little Boy Langley is fixing for him)
He'll be rakin' around the planets and stars,
And planning new orbits for Venus and Mars,
arranging and changing with strenuous vim.
But he can't see a thing right under his nose.

That's a fact! 'Tis a fact!
Right under his dizzy old nose!

I mailed the thing to the editor of the Pacific Fruit
World with fear and trepidation — but he wrote me a
nice letter and printed the "poem" just as I had written
it — except that my address was given as La Mira Cal.,
instead of La Mesa, Cal., where I was living at the time.
Then came a very fine letter from Mr. Edward Berwick
himself.

California Postal Progress League.
Organized in May, 1903, to agitate for an up-to-date Postal Service
President — Edward Berwick, Pacific Grove
Vice-Presidents — Geo. G. Pardes, Sacramento,
Benj. F. de Wheeler, President University of California
David Starr Jordan, President Stanford University
Henry Weinstock, Sacramento and San Francisco

(4)

Hon. Ellwood Cooper, State Commissioner Horticulture,
Hon. E. E. Schmitz, Mayor of San Francisco.
S. W. Emery, Worthy Master Calif. State Grange, Oakland.
R. B. Hale, Hale Bros., San Francisco
Hon. Thos. Flint Jr., President California Senate
Honorable Secretary - M. V. Hartmann, Times Building, Los Angeles.
Treasurer - John S. Stone, Fresno.

PACIFIC GROVE, CAL., Jan 11th 1904

Mr. R H Asher. La Mira. Cal.

Dear Sir

I am glad to hail the Parcels Post Poet.
Your verses in "P. F. Fruit World" gave me much satisfaction. I am getting them reprinted with one or two variations that I trust will not displease you in our P. G. Review, & will endeavor to get them often reprinted.

Thanking you for your effective help

I am, dear Sir,

- yrs cordially

(Signed) Edw d Berwick

P.S. Give us some more!